

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
South Dakota Department of the Military



SALUTE TO VETERANS

The Sioux Falls Washington Pavilion will be paying tribute to veterans at their annual "A Salute to Veterans," on Sunday, November 5, at 3:00 pm.

This year's free concert features the U.S. Air Force Heartland of America Band's Brass Quintet and Augustana orchestra.

Tickets may be obtained on line or in person at the Pavilion box office—
<https://www.washingtonpavilion.org/online/seatSelect.asp>.

Inside this issue:

VA 'CARE' Act	2
Lueck Leaves Beadle County	3
Callies Homecoming	3
VA Mortgage Task Force	4
SFVAHCS Veterans Day Program	4
SFVAHCS Open House	5
Troop 57005 Hits a Home Run for Heroes	5
Transportation for Veterans	6
SDSU to Honor Veterans	6
Services for POW/lyotte	7
SDSU Warrior Week	8
Upcoming Events	9



VA ANNOUNCES VETERANS COORDINATED ACCESS AND REWARDING EXPERIENCES (CARE) ACT

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that it has presented the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees with the administration's draft proposal of the Veterans Coordinated Access & Rewarding Experiences (CARE) Act, designed to improve veterans' experiences with and access to health care, building on the best features of the VA's existing community care programs and strengthening the VA's ability to furnish care in its facilities.

In order to meet veterans' needs quickly and in a way that is easy to understand, the bill aims to:

- Clarify and simplify eligibility requirements,
- Set the framework for the VA to continue to build a high-performing network,
- Streamline clinical and administrative processes,
- Implement new care coordination support for veterans, and
- Merge and modernize community care programs.

"We want veterans to work with their VA physicians to make informed decisions that are best for their clinical needs, whether in the VA or in the community, and this bill does just that, while strengthening VA services at the same time," said VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin.

The bill would replace the current wait-time and distance eligibility criteria under the Choice Program ("30-day/40-mile") with criteria that:

- Place the veteran and his or her physician at the center of the decision process on how and where to get the best care available,
- Ensure the VA is improving medical facilities and staffing levels to meet veterans' needs in areas where VA care is substandard, and
- Offer options for veterans to use a network of walk-in clinics for minor illnesses and injuries.

The CARE Act also includes:

- Proposals for new workforce tools to assist in maintaining and strengthening the VA's world-class medical staff,
- A number of business process enhancements to improve financial management of the Community Care program,
- Provisions that would strengthen the VA's ability to partner with other federal agencies and streamline the VA's real property management authorities.

More information about access to care at the VA can be found at :

<https://www.accesstocare.va.gov/>.

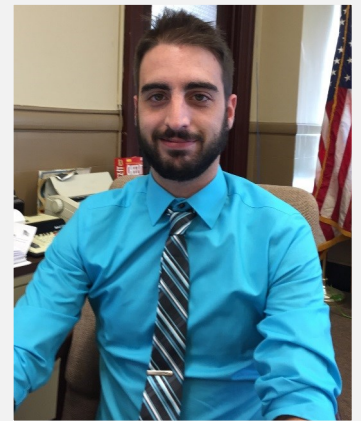


LUECK RESIGNS HIS POST AS CVSO

Mike Lueck, has resigned his post as CVSO for Beadle and Sanborn Counties. He plans to go back to school and further his education mission.

Both counties are in the process of securing a new CVSO. SDDVA Field Officer Kevin Bowen will be working at their office in Huron assisting veterans until the position is full.

SDDVA wishes Lueck the best in his new endeavors and we are thankful for all that Mike has done for our veterans.



WATERTOWN HOSTS HOMECOMING FOR NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER CALLIES



Byron Callies, Watertown, has been elected to one of the veterans organization's highest posts. At the American Legion's national convention in Reno, Nev., in August, Callies, 69, was elected to be one of five national vice commanders in the country, as well as one of 12 national officers.

Callies will work with state commanders and Legion offices in seven states, including South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota and Kansas, in boosting the Legion's profile and membership enrollments.

Callies was recently honored with a homecoming ceremony in Watertown.

Callies served 41 years with the South Dakota Army National Guard and has dedicated 46 years to the American Legion.

VA, GINNIE MAE CREATE TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS MORTGAGE REFINANCING ISSUES

The Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae) and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced the formation of the Joint Ginnie Mae – VA Refinance Loan Task Force.

The task force will focus on examining critical issues, important data and lender behaviors related to refinancing loans, and will determine what program and policy changes should be made by the agencies to ensure these loans do not pose an undue risk or burden to veterans or the American taxpayer.

More specifically, the task force will examine aggressive and misleading refinancing propositions, as described by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and will address loan churning and repeated refinancing.

Both agencies agree that the VA and Ginnie Mae programs work best when they are used by market participants in ways that provide a benefit to veteran borrowers and, ultimately, lower veterans' costs.

The task force has started its work by examining data and information to ensure loans provide a net tangible benefit to veteran borrowers, and consider establishing time frames regarding recoupment of fees associated with refinancing loans.

It will also examine the impact of establishing stronger seasoning requirements for VA-guaranteed loans that are securitized into Ginnie Mae Mortgage Backed Security pools. Additionally, the task force will work to ensure veterans understand the costs and benefits of refinancing, and ensure robust borrower outreach and education programs are augmented for this purpose.

Ginnie Mae and the VA will arrange joint discussions with individual lenders whose demonstrated origination practices may negatively affect veteran borrowers or increase program costs and risks.

The task force will continue to work collaboratively until concrete solutions have been implemented to eliminate lender behavior that is unhelpful to veterans and harmful to the American taxpayer.

A snapshot of
servicemember
complaints

A review of issues related to VA mortgage refinancing

cfpb Consumer Financial
Protection Bureau

SFVAHC TO HOLD VETERANS DAY PROGRAMS

The Sioux Falls VA invites everyone to join them at the community Veterans Day program on Saturday, November 11 in Sioux Falls. The program will be held at the Washington High School at 10:30 AM (CT).

(Retired) General Myrna Williamson will be the keynote speaker, and the Singing Legionnaires will perform.

In addition, veterans service organizations will each present an outstanding achievement award to one of their members.

Later that day, the SFVAHCS will hold a service of remembrance for families of recently deceased veterans. This program will start at 1:30 pm (CT) and will take place in the front foyer of the medical center with a time for fellowship following the formal program.

STOUX FALLS VA TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE TO HONOR VETERANS

November is Veterans Month and the Sioux Falls VA plans to observe this with an open house on Thursday, November 2, from 4:00-6:00 PM.

Tours of the newly renovated and constructed areas throughout the medical center will be provided, including the surgical suites, acute med/surg units, Integrative Health building, and Rehab Medicine area (physical, occupational, and speech therapy and chiropractic space).

In addition, there will be informational booths in the front foyer and throughout the medical center for veterans, their families,

and the community to learn about quality and innovative VA care and services for veterans.



MITCHELL GIRLS SCOUT TROOP 57005 FUNDING EFFORTS HELP PROVIDE A FINAL SALUTE FOR THREE VETERANS

Mitchell Girls Scout Troop 57005 partnered with Davison County Veterans Service Office to ensure three veterans had proper headstones and a final salute. The headstones honored veterans of the Spanish American War, Korean War, and World War I

The Troop set out to raise \$1,000 and thanks to their talent, commitment, and dedication they raised over \$5,500. Although the Troop has done an outstanding job of honoring these three heroes, they are not closing the door on this mission.

Debbe Emme, Troop Leader and Davison County VSO Assistant challenges all CTVSOs to partner with their local youth to create community support for our heroes.



TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM FOR VETERANS

As you know, SDDVA has promoted the Highly Rural Transportation Grants (HRTG), a grant-based program that helps veterans in highly rural areas travel to VA or VA-authorized health care facilities. This program provides grant funding to Veteran Service Organizations and State Veterans Service Agencies to provide transportation services in eligible counties.

River Cities Public Transit (RCPT) has worked closely with numerous organizations and has been successful in securing transportation grants for veterans in the following counties: Aurora, Bennett, Buffalo, Butte, Campbell, Clark, Corson, Custer, Day, Dewey, Edmunds, Fall River, Faulk, Gregory, Haakon, Hand, Harding, Hyde, Jackson, Jerauld, Jones, Kingsbury, Lyman, McPherson, Marshall, Mellette, Miner, Perkins, Potter, Sanborn, Spink, Stanley, Sully, Tripp, and Ziebach.

For veterans living in these counties they just need to **call RCPT at (605) 945.2360** to schedule a ride. The call needs to be at least two days in advance, it can be up to two weeks or more before the scheduled appointment. To learn more about the program visit: <https://www.rcptransit.com/veterans-transportation/>.

— SAVE THE DATE —
November 11, 2017

 **VS.** 

MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY

Kick-Off - 2:00 p.m. | Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium

South Dakota State Athletics would like to invite all Military Personnel out for "Military Appreciation Day" as the Jackrabbits football team hosts Illinois State.

All Military Personnel will receive (2) complimentary tickets to the game (Pick-up tickets at Gate C (First Bank & Trust Entrance) the day of game)

For More Information: call 1.605.688.5422

FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SOLDIER CAPTURED DURING THE KOREAN WAR

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, recently accounted-for from the Korean War, are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Army Sgt. Philip J. Lyotte, 21, of White River, South Dakota, will be buried October 25 in his hometown.

In February 1951, Lyotte was a member of Company E, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, assigned under 8th Army. Lyotte was declared missing in action on Feb. 9, 1951, when he was captured by Chinese forces during Operation Thunderbolt, which took place from January 25 to February 1. Operation Thunderbolt's objective was to conduct a reconnaissance in force across the 8th Army front, to advance 30 miles to the south bank of the Han River. Sometime during the engagement, Lyotte was captured and moved to Camp 1 at Changsong. Following the war, several returning American prisoners of war reported that Lyotte died sometime around Sept. 10, 1951 and was buried at the main camp.

Although the U.S. Army Graves Registration Service planned to recover American remains that remained north of the Korean Demilitarized Zone after the war, administrative details between the United Nations Command and North Korea complicated recovery efforts. An agreement was made and in September and October 1954, in what was known as Operation Glory, remains were returned. However, Lyotte's remains were not included and he was declared non-recoverable. A set of remains marked as "Smith, Paul R." and labeled Unknown X-14265 were processed for identification, but an association could not be made and they were returned to the United States for burial.

After a thorough historical and scientific analysis, DPAA requested the exhumation of 22 unresolved individuals, including Lyotte. Unknown X-14265 was disinterred from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, on May 8, 2017 and sent to the laboratory for analysis. To identify Lyotte's remains, scientists from DPAA used laboratory analysis, including dental, anthropological and chest radiograph comparison analysis, all which matched Lyotte's records; as well as circumstantial evidence.

DPAA is grateful to the Department of Veterans Affairs for their partnership in this recovery. Today, 7,718 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. Using modern technology, identifications continue to be made from remains that were previously returned by North Korean officials or recovered from North Korea by American recovery teams. Lyotte's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at an American Battle Monuments Commission site along with the others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa.mil, find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa or call (703) 699-1420.

Funeral services for Sgt. Phillip Lyotte, U.S. Army, will be held on Wednesday October 25th, 2017, in White River at the Community Events Center at 10 am.

A Post Everlasting ceremony will be held during the wake on October 24th at 9pm. Secretary Zimmerman has been asked to speak at the funeral service.



WARRIOR WEEK 2017

November 6 - 11

MONDAY, NOV 6 - 11

HALL OF HEROES @ Student Union
WELLNESS 4 WARRIORS @ Wellness
Center - Veterans & Family workout
for FREE!

TUESDAY, NOV 7

MOVIE NIGHT - FREE admittance for
first 100 veterans to view "Thank You for
Your Service" @ Cinema 8 Theatre.
Tickets available at the VARC starting
November 1. TBA

WEDNESDAY, NOV 8

SPEAKERS & ASK A VET - 6 PM
@ SD Art Museum
*Micheal Goodale - Former Ranger &
Purple Heart Recipient from the Battle
of Mogadishu.
*Paul Weckman - Retired Navy Captain
*Chief Master Sgt. Zona Hornstra - The
new 114th Fighter Wing Command Chief!
ASK A VET panel to follow. Bring questions!
MILITARY MEMORABILIA DISPLAY
Bob Hill's military memorabilia will be on dis-
play @ museum during program.

THURSDAY, NOV 9

NAVY & MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATION - 12:30 PM @ VARC
COMBAT BALL TOURNEY
LASER TAG TOURNEY
2 -5 PM @ Wellness Center. Sign up
teams of 4 through the WC or VARC.

FRIDAY, NOV 10

Veterans Day Observed - No School
28th ANNUAL VETERANS VIGIL OPEN-
ING CEREMONY by Arnold Air Society -
11AM @ Brookings Co. Veterans Memorial

SATURDAY, NOV 11

Veterans Day!
VETERANS DAY PROGRAM by
Brookings American Legion- 9:30 AM
@ Swiftel Center
VETERANS VIGIL CLOSING CEREMO-
NY @ 11 AM
MILITARY APPRECIATION
FOOTBALL GAME - SDSU vs. Illinois
State @ 2 PM. Veterans/Service Mem-
bers receive two FREE tickets!

For more information, contact SDSU Veterans Affairs Office.
605.688.4700

Upcoming Events

Oct 21—Derr Foundation Gala—Rushmore Plaza Civic Center—Rapid City—5:00 pm (MT)
Oct 25—SDDOL/G4S Hiring Fair/Interviews—811 E. 10th Street—Sioux Falls—9:00 am—1:00 pm (CT)
Nov 2—SFVAHCS Open House to Honor Veterans—SFVAHCS—4:00 pm—6:00 pm (CT)
Nov 4—Public Agent Orange Forum—Meade County Court House in Sturgis (2nd Floor Commissioners Chambers—1300 Sherman Street) 9:00 am and 1:00 pm (MT)
Nov 5—Salute to Veterans—Washington Pavilion—301 S. Main Avenue—Sioux Falls—3:00 pm (CT)
Nov 8—SD Veterans Council Meeting—PVA Headquarters in Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)
Nov 9-13—VFW Disabled Veterans Hunt—Gettysburg
Nov 10—State Offices Closed
Nov 11—SFVAHCS Service of Remembrance—SFVAHCS—1:30 pm (CT)
Nov 11—SDSU Military Appreciation Day—Kickoff at 2:00 pm (CT)
Nov 11—American Heroes Outdoors Veterans Day Banquet—Aberdeen Elks Lodge 1046—5:00 pm (CST)
Nov 11-12—Sea of Goodwill Equine Experience Retreat—Joy Ranch—Watertown
Nov 23-24—State Offices Closed
Dec 2-3—Yellow Ribbon for the 153rd EN—Mitchell
Dec 5—Governor's Budget Address—1:00 pm (CT)
Dec 12—SDDVA Mini Conference via Skype—10:00 am (CT)
December 25-26—State Offices Closed

2018

Jan 9—Governor's State of the State Address—1:00 pm (CT)
Jan 10—SD Veterans Commission Meeting—RedRossa in Pierre—9:00 am (CT)
Jan 10—SDDVA/Veterans Council Legislative Reception—RedRossa in Pierre—5:00—8:00 pm (CT)
Jan 18—SD American Legion Legislative Reception—Post 8—Pierre—5:00 pm (CT)
Jan 28-29—VFW Legislative Conference—Ft. Pierre AmericInn
Jan 29—VFW Legislative Reception—AmericInn—Ft. Pierre—6:00 pm—7:30 pm (CT)
Feb 16-18 American Legion Mid Winter Conference—Oacoma
Jun 7-10—American Legion State Convention—Spearfish
Jun 14-17—VFW State Convention—Sioux Falls

Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer
South Dakota Department of the Military <http://military.sd.gov>
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs <http://vetaffairs.sd.gov>
Soldiers and Sailors Building - 425 E Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-8242
E-mail address: audry.ricketts@state.sd.us

